MAY, 1968 Vol. XIV, No. 5

PUBLISHED BY THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

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#### WANTED

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W. SPARKS, P.J.S., 28 Greenway Road, Taunton, Somerset.

# M.P's form

drivers

pressure

group

Members of Parliament has been formed to champion the cause of disabled drivers and their fight for safer vehicles and a better deal from the Ministry of Health.

Chairman of this new parliamentary group is Mr. Neil Marten, Conservative M.P. for Banbury and membership ranges over back-benchers of all parties. They aim to provide a focus in the House of Commons for the problems and grievances of disabled drivers.

Mr. Marten told Spastics News: We wanted to cover all parties in our membership so that we can provide continuity of pressure whoever is in power. We will be putting our points of view to the Ministry of Health and keeping in close contact with the voluntary bodies concerned with these problems."

The group will be meeting again at the beginning of May to formulate a plan of campaign on behalf of the disabled driver. By then Mr. Marten hopes there will be a member-ship of more than thirty

Vice-Chairman of the group is Dr. Michael Winstanley, Liberal, and its secretary is Mr. Eric Ogden, Labour.

# WANTED PLANT

BRISTOL WORK CENTRE is appealing for old woodworking engineering machinery which may have been made redundant by local firms. "We are urgently in need of more equipment," said Mr. William Giblett, Work Centre Manager, "If any firm is replacing machinery with more up-to-date equipment, we should welcome

their old machines." The 50 spastic employees at the Work Centre have just completed an unusual ordercleaning, adjusting and painting steam valves for Horfield Prison.

# SWEEPING PLAN FOR REGIONS

SWEEPING CHANGES in regional organisation have been introduced to the Spastics Society in a postive move towards greater efficiency and effectiveness. This stream-lining will be of particular benefit to the local groups and is partly designed to bring about a closer relationship between the Groups and Park Crescent.

Mr. W. A. Burn, chairman of

the Society, recently met the Chairman of the Regional Advisory Committees to discuss the plans to merge the existing 13 regions into six larger Regions and methods of improving understanding between Groups and the Central Organisation. Two and a half hours of lively discussion produced agreement in principle on the plans and a clearer picture of the way in which communica-tions could be improved.

Later in a letter to Group Chairmen, Mr. Burn said:

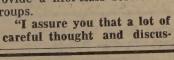
### 'Reduce isolation"

"The trend today is towards larger groupings on the grounds of both efficiency and economy, and we aim to reduce the isolation of the existing small Regional Offices and at the same time to provide a more effective service at less cost by establishing six larger bases as centres of Regional activities. The Regional Officers in charge will have an en-hanced status and responsi-

"In shaping the new boundaries we have followed where possible the existing regional boundaries. The Wessex Region will disappear but, apart from this, the change is no more than the merging of two existing regions into one with the closing down of those Regional Offices which will become

#### First class service

"Reactions to the changes will naturally vary and it is only to be expected that in a large concern like ours, some will be less favourable than others, but I am confident that in the long term the new organisation will provide a first-class service to



sion has gone into shaping. these plans, and it is only because the Regions and Group Co-ordinating Committee and the Executive Committee were satisfied that they will improve the Society's services to Groups, and through Groups to spastics themselves, that they decided to recommend and adopt them.

"It will not be possible to

implement all the changes at once: we shall, however, start putting them into operation as soon as possible.

I shall need your full cooperation and support to see them through smoothly and successfully, and I am confident that I can rely on you here.

"I have two more things to

See page 2.



With President Lyndon B. Johnson is Kenny Cunningham, new "poster boy" for the American Cerebral Palsy Campaign. (Photo: Associated Press)

# Top men advise on Society research

A SPECIAL ADVISORY RE-SEARCH BOARD with Lord Cohen as chairman has been set up by The Spastics Society to advise on its research programmes which in all fields are n o w costing approximately £350,000 per annum.

"Considerable progress has been made since the Society initiated its research programme," said Mr. W. A. Burn, the Society's Chairman, "but there is still a very great deal to be learned about the causes

and the prevention of cerebral palsy, as in Britain alone a spastic is born every eight hours. We also need to know a great deal more about how best to treat and



Sir Ala. Moncrieff

educate spastics. "The new Research Board," continued Mr. Burn, "will be invaluable in helping to decide priorities and to regulate programmes of research in the medical, educational, social and operational fields as well as advising upon the allocation of research funds between these various interests."

#### Strategy review

Mr. Burn concluded by saying "the Board would in due course review the whole strategy of research policy and advise the Society if it was proceeding in the right direction and spending about the right proportion of its total income on research. It would also recommend how best research knowledge already available and being acquired could be disseminated."

The Society sponsors major work at the Paediatric Research

Unit at Guy's Hospital and at the Department of Child Health at the University of London, both of which have come into existence largely because of the contributions of millions of supporters of The Spastics Society throughout the country. The Society also makes short-term grants for extra-mural research.

#### The Board

With Lord Cohen on the

Board are:
Dr. D. W. Adamson, M.Sc.,
Ph.D., D.Phil., A.R.I.C., Group
Research & Development Director of The Wellcome Foundation

Sir Derrick Dunlop, B.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S.E., Emeritus Professor of Clinical Medicine, Edinburgh University, and Chairman of the Dunlop Committee on Safety of Drugs:

mittee on Safety of Drugs;
Sir Alan Moncrieff, C.B.E.,
M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.O.G., J.P.,
Emeritus Professor of Child Health, London University;

# Standing as Liberal Candidate

MR. PETER WILLOWS (44), author of a book about his experiences as a spastic, has been adopted as Liberal candidate for Redland in Bristol's May municipal elections.

Mr. Willows, educated at Clifton College and Bristol University, was called to the Bar in 1948 and was chairman of the Young Liberals in Bristol in 1960.

In addition to his autobiography, "Human Tortoises," he has published a novel set in 13th Century Bristol and Bath and a book of short stories.

Sir Max Rosenheim, K.B.E., M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., President of the Royal College of Physicians;

Chairman of the University

Dr. G. E. W. Wolstenholme, O.B.E., M.A., F.R.C.P., Director of the C.I.B.A. Foundation.

Grants Committee;

Sir John Wolfenden, K.B.E.,

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# Relax Radox bath

#### After a hard day relax in a Radox bath.

Have the water just comfortably hot. Slide right down in the bath. Linger in it for at least 10 minutes.

Fatigue and tension just float away in warm water made soothing and fragrant by Radox. It's a comfort to both tired mind and weary body. Your skin is left

smooth, soft and refreshed. Soap lathers better. Hardwater scum and 'high tide marks' are eliminated. A quick rinse with plain water and the bath is left clean and inviting. Then, off to bed: relaxed in body and mind. You'll sleep better and wake refreshed.

Radox makes a bath special.



A NICHOLAS N PRODUCT, BATH ROAD, SLOUGH, BUCKS.

### Move for Dr. Gray

DR. O. P. GRAY has been promoted to the Chair of Child Health at the Welsh National School of Medicine, where he is a Senior Lecturer.

Dr. Gray is, of course, well known to the Spastics Societies of Cardiff and South Wales, as he acts as Paediatrician at Craig-y-Parc. While Assistant to the Director of Guy's Hospital, during 1958 and 1959, he also acted as joint deputy for Prof. Paul Polani during the latter's absence abroad.

His father, Mr. O. M. Gray and Mrs. Gray are active members of the Nottingham Group, and their son, Mal-



colm, is now living happily at the Bedford, Buxton. Two other sons are doctors and their youngest child, Margaret, is a S.R.N.



# TEACHERS ATTEND AT

## **OXFORD**

THE PROBLEMS OF THE SUBNORMAL or mentally handicapped child provided the theme in the proceedings of the Seventh Education Seminar, organised by the Society at Oxford this year.

A distinguished company of teachers, psychologists and others met at University College from April 16th—22nd for close group discussions on every aspect of the subject, and the Director, Mr. James Loring, set the pace with a stirring appeal for a reform of the priorities of the National Health Service as regards the mentally subnormal in hospitals. "The conditions in these places," he said, "were often gruesome, inhuman and unutterably foul."

Work was divided into various set groups under the chairmanship of the following experts: Mrs. Joyce Knowles, B.A., Principal of Castle Priory College; Dr. Russell Barton, Dr. Jack T. R. Bavin, Mr. Leslie Gardner (the Society's Principal Psychologist), Dr. Donald Gough, Mr. Simon Haskell, Dr. David Morris and Mr. Tom Pearce, D.C.P.

A report of the proceedings of this important conference will be published in the next, i.e. June issue of Spastics News.

# "RIGHT NOW," RIGHT HERE

Young business executives, typists, secretaries—in fact more than 50 under 30's from all walks of life have grouped to gether to help organise supporting events for the Greater London Spastics Week. Already they have planned a ball, two walks and a barbecue. The group was formed after a "small ad" appeared in "The Times". They have called themselves the "Right Now" Group. Here they are pictured at the launching Conference at Park Crescent.



# Finance — difficult years are ahead



of us...

by H. W. PALMER

Hon. Treasurer, Spastics Society.

WE NOW KNOW that 1968 and 1969 are going to be years of great difficulty for the Nation and the Spastics Society.

The devaluation of last November and the Chancellor's recent budget mean that prices will rise and that, after paying increased taxes and meeting the costs of food and other essentials, we will have less to spend on those other goods and services we would like to have or would wish others to enjoy.

#### Anxiously waiting . . .

We, as members of the Spastics Society, whether in the Regions and Groups, or at Park Crescent anxiously await the outcome of the appeal by Top Ten Promotions Ltd. against last year's High Court decision that their competitions—from which we derive considerable income—are subject to additional duty under Finance

Increased betting duties and higher rates of Selective Employment Tax will in any case affect charity football pools and higher purchase tax on greeting cards will inevitably diminish the prospects of our flourishing business in Christmas cards and stationery.

The only way out of these difficulties both for the Nation and the Spastics Society is by greater effort concentrated in the areas that are likely to be most productive.

As a national charity we have a record second to none in what has been done for Spastics during the last ten

In our numerous schools and centres up and down the country we provide tangible evidence of our ability to spend money wisely and constructively. We can show how, given the necessary funds, more and more of those suffering from cerebral palsy can be educated and trained for the individual satisfactions of employment whether in the world at large or in "sheltered" conditions.

#### Persuade our Friends

We are advised by the best medical and scientific brains in the country on how to spend what money we can spare from more pressing needs, on medical and educational research designed we hope one day to prevent spasticity, and certainly now to improve the chances of those afflicted growing into self-supporting men and women.

All this should encourage us to believe that, notwithstanding the difficult times through which we are passing, we can persuade our friends and acquaintances and members of the general public that the needs of spastics are urgent, that they can best be met through the nationwide organisation of the Spastic Societies and that each of us can still afford to make a gift, however small, in support of this work.

I can personally assure all those who do not come into close contact with the headquarters organisation, that we are doing everything we can to save money and to improve our services without surpassing our ability to provide additional facilities when sufficient funds are once again available for a renewed attack on the problem we have made our own.

# PROGRAMMING COURSE — A BIG SUCCESS ability, and who possesses the right temperament—i.e. is a logical sort of person—should be able to succeed, if young.

A N experimental course of training in computer programming has been held at Queen Elizabeth's Training College for the Disabled, Leatherhead, and others are to follow.

Five severely disabled men, ranging in age from eighteen to forty-six, took the course and all were successful. A number of interview centres were first established in various parts of the country and the trainees were carefully selected after exhaustive tests by representatives of the Ministry of Labour, the Treasury (who tested them for computer ability) and the training college.

#### Pioneered

I.C.T. (International Computers and Tabulators Ltd.) were approached for their co-operation and arranged the course. Puncied card courses for disabled girls had already been pioneered by this college with I.C.T.'s assistance.

The pilot course established three points:

### Breakthrough

- 1. That computer programming is a skill the severely disabled are able to master.
- 2. That some would be able to programme in their ownhome, thus constituting an important breakthrough.

But

3. That there is simply no demand for trainee programmers. Firms with their own computer units have long waiting lists of staff to be converted to this new field.

#### Many Difficulties

However, after careful consideration, it has been decided to set up a course at Queen Elizabeth's College and that the problem of employment must be overcome, in spite of the many difficulties. Major conversion of the existing premises is to take place but this is only a small part of a very com rehensive policy now going on at the college, where it is hoped the course will start before the end of 1968.

Now comes the problem of establishing communication with the disabled people who would benefit from this trainNo one need have any qualms about applying because of the severity of their disability. The college is specially

quiries should be addressed to t' Director, Queen Elizabeth's College for the Disabled, Leatherhead Court, Leatherhead, Surrey.

designed for the disabled. En-

# A Diploma — now for the Olympics

TREVOR PRICE has just received an impressive Diploma from Queen Elizabeth Training College for the Disabled at Leatherhead for his success in the examination as a Computer Programmer. This marks the occasion of the first course of its kind in the world With it came a memento: a photograph of Mr. Price with Mr. Anthony Wedgwood Benn, Minister of Technology.

Trevor Price is now looking forward to taking part in the Stoke Mandeville Spastics Olympics Games.

# Regional Changes

From Page One

ing. Experience leads to the

belief that anyone with a good

broad educational background,

roughly to general O-level

tell you before I end, and I am sure that you will find them of interest.

"The Chairmen of the Regional Advisory Committees have been asked to suggest how their committees can be made more effective and we will be considering their suggestions at a very early date; furthermore, it is hoped to establish a central Advisory Panel, with representatives on it from both the Executive Committee and the Regional Advisory Committees, to help us all to bring our thinking closer together."

Mr. D. Lancaster-Gaye, Assist-

London and

South East

+Hants.

tant Director Services, has written:—

"The success of any major reorganisation must rely in some measure on the acceptance of certain fundamental principles, notably in this case the closure of a number of Regional Offices. In the long run we have a cheaper and a more efficient machine.

"For reasons that will be evident, it is not possible to look upon the regional social work organisation in quite the same way. Social work cannot follow similar boundaries, if indeed it is possible to follow boundaries at all.

"Nevertheless, it is vital

that the same principles should apply equally to the social work offices so far as rationalisation is concerned, and during the next year several of the existing offices will close and the staff will either follow the regional organisation to their new offices or alternative accommodation will be sought, probably in existing day centres.

"As and when decisions can be made about accommodation for regional social workers and this will have to be within the next few weeks, suitable notice will be given on a regional basis."

SRO Miss C. Mould

ROs Mr. N. J. Goldfrap Mr. R. C. Lemarie

Mr. T. H. O'Neill

THE NEW SHAPE OF THE REGIONS

New Regions: New Regional Offices

Regional Offices

**Existing Regions** · Regional Officers SRO Gp. Capt. W. A. L. Davis North and to merge into Royal Chambers, North East Station Parade, Yorkshire Harrogate, Yorks. RO Mr. R. Allan Manchester and to merge into 89 Oxford Street, SRO Mr. R. J. F. Whyte Merseyside and North West Manchester, 1. RO Mr. D. C. Freemantle North Wales East Midlands and to merge into Vehicle & General House, SRO Mr. M. R. Venables West Midlands Midlands Hurst Street. RO Mr. N. E. Geddes Birmingham, 5. to merge into Bristol pro tem South Wales and SRO Mr. D. S. Hutcheson West St. John's House, West ROs Mr. P. J. H. Pope +Glos., Wilts. and 60 Stapleton Road, Mr. B. Kingsley Davies Taunton, Somerset. Dorset East Anglia and to merge into Bedford pro tem SRO Brig. V. C. Halden East Harrold House, Northern Home RO Mr. H. G. Knight Counties Harrold, Bedford.

At the time of going to print, the exact timings had not been finalised; these will be notified to all groups as soon as possible. And, as soon as the boundary details have been settled a new map will be made available.

to merge into 12 Park Crescent,

South East London, W.1.

# Gift shop raised £500 for holiday home funds

A Spastics Gift Shop, opened for three weeks in Southport recently, raised £500 for Ellers-lie Court Holiday Home. The home, run solely by the Southport, Formby and District Spastics Society, caters for spastics from all parts of the

"Voluntary workers for our shop beg and collect all manner



of discarded clothing, furniture, jewellery, glass, toys, almost anything, which is sorted out, priced and sold to the public," said Mr. S. Smith, a committee member. "This ties up with other efforts such as garden parties, coffee evenings, and money collected in dolls, boxes and beacons all over South-port," he added. "A great deal more money is needed to keep the home going, so we hope to open our shop again in the near

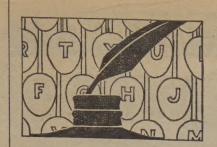
# Darlington aims for **£25,000**

Darlington and District Spastics Society will be holding a massive house-to-house collection in July as part of its plans to collect £25,000 for a new Day Centre in the area. Faced with a growing list of spastics of all ages, the group particularly needs a Child Care Unit and social clubs for teenage and adults spastics. A Work Centre and Adult Residential Unit are also being con-

## High standard t arts show

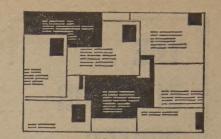
An exhibition of arts and crafts was held at Southend Spastics Centre recently. Several of the paintings by disabled people were sold and it was agreed that they were of a very high standard.

Diane



# YOU write to US

Please address your letters to: The Editor, Spastics News, The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London, W.1., and print your address clearly at the end of the letter. There is 10s. 6d. for each letter published sent by a spastic.



# TREVOR PRICE -HIS COURAGE **OUTSTANDING**"

I should like to heartily congratulate Mr. Trevor Price on his remarkable achievement of obtaining employment after reading the article about his success in the March issue of the Spastics News.

As a severely physically han-dicapped seeker of employment of half the age of Mr. Price, I think his courage and tenacity is outstanding, having experienced only a little of the frustration and constant disappointment which he must have endured for a great

# Had so many of "them"...

Dear Editor,

I was very impressed by the achievements of Trevor Price reported in the March issue of Spastics News. It was also greatly encouraging to read of the enlightened approach of Pilkington's Glass Factory towards the employment of handicapped people.

I cannot help feeling that your report would be of interest to Disablement Resettlement Officers throughout the country, who might like to bring it to the notice of some employers in their districts. In my own, as yet unsuccessful, attempts to find employment there have been some amusing experiences.

At one interview I was asked if I was registered as a disabled person; when I replied that I was, the interviewer said bluntly: "We have to have so many of 'them' you know." Unfortunately he apparently did not feel inclined to make me one of 'them' at his firm, and I am still 'on the trail'. Hearty congratulations to Trevor Price.

Yours sincerely, ANDREW ARMSTRONG. 3 Park Road,

number of years in his fight to make a place for himself in

Mr. Price's success in obtaining employment of such a responsible nature is a fine example of what can be achieved from determination and perse-

Mr. Price must have wonderful parents, as I have, to have given him encouragement and support during his strife for an independent career which sometimes must have seemed an impossibility even to them, perhaps not because they thought their son was not capable of doing a job of some description, but their hopes of him ever being given the chance to show what he could do diminished.

Mr. Price's employer should also be commended for giving the chance to Mr. Price to prove himself. I wish other employers would follow suit and make sure that they cannot employ the severely disabled before rejecting us.

May Mr. Price have all the success and good fortune he truly deserves.

Yours sincerely, Robert W. Lancaster. 134 Golden Hillock Road, Small Heath, Birmingham, 10.



Ingfield had a little lamb, Its face was black as night, It shared a ride in David's

To David's great delight.

READING THE

NEW "NEWS"

It was a big shock to me-as it must have been for many-

to find that Spastics News has become a newspaper. It's quite

understandable that it had to be cut down, but couldn't it be

pinned together, as some weeklies are?

Perhaps my way of reading a

paper like this may help some-

back first, then pages 2, 3, 11

and 12, and so on, ending up

with the centre pages. This

may seem a lazy way, but I

find I'm apt to tear big pages

when turning them over. Of

course, it's rather awkward

# major step forward

Dear Editor,

I must say a hearty 'thank you' for the new style Spastics News. It is very much better, for at long last you have a much bigger and better selection of reading matter which caters for everyone.

I was also pleased with the idea of getting to know the people at Headquarters and to read of the new Assessment Centre in London which is a major step forward in getting things moving right from an

I am very pleased to say that I am one of the very lucky ones who managed to get into the Meadway Works. In fact I have just started my third year there, and I would not have missed the chance for anything, as we really do see life one way or another.

Yours sincerely,
B. E. HUNT (Miss),
The Spastics Hostel, Broadstones Road, Birmingham 26.

# Not so easy to keep

I was disappointed to see that Spastics News has now changed to a newspaper format. I appreciate that this has been done for reasons of economy and the need for an increased circulation. Nevertheless, I have always thought that the magazine was very well produced on good quality paper with some excellent photographs. It was a delight to read and most useful to keep for reference.

I do not feel that the newspaper lends itself very well to the 'quality image' of the Society and it is not easy to keep for reference because it can unwittingly be destroyed. I am sure that there are many like myself who feel that much of the originality of the magazine will disappear with the change to such a conventional kind of image.

I am a spastic and although I hesitate to complain, I thought you may like to have my views on this topic. Yours sincerely,

PETER DAVIS, 338, Selly Oak Road. Kings Norton, Birmingham 30.

## Thank-you - to Albert **Tatlock**

AND HERE is a letter received by the Stars Organisation for Spastics: Dear Mr. Tatlock,

I know this is not your real name but it's the only one I know you by. At Christmas a niece of mine sent me a copy of 'Reveille' which contained a short newsreel of some of the 'Coronation St.' stars. My niece knows how interested I am in anything at all to do with 'Coronation Street!'

I am 84-years-old-I do thoroughly enjoy the showing of 'Coronation Street' and would like to say 'thank you' to all members of the cast. You all give us quite a lot of real entertainment and I do look forward to Monday and Wednesday sessions. Thank you all very much.

from AN 84-YEAR-OLD. Bellingham,

#### when an article is continued on Gatley, Cheshire. another page, and I was so Speedwriting Expert



MRS. PARKER, Principal of the Chester Office Training Centre, presents Diane Keeping, whose home is at Parkstone, Poole, Dorset, with a Certificate of Proficiency in Speedwriting. Diane reached 80 words per minute in this form of shorthand. Mrs. Griffiths, her teacher, stands on Diane's right while other trainees and members of staff look on.

thankful to find this didn't one else. I read the front and occur in this issue. A cynic said recently that

there's nothing much in Spastics News anyway. I entirely disagree, it's so interesting to read what's happening to spastic folk in different parts of the country, and it is indeed good to know that so much is being done for our cause nowadays. May God richly bless the good work of the Society.

We had a good chuckle over the letter about the drinking straws. It reminded me of an incident which happened quite soon after my foster Mum and I first met. She and my Auntie took me out one hot summer afternoon, and she bought three ice-cream cornets and a bottle of pop. She took a spoon from her bag and fed me with every bit of the ice-cream from my cornet. I presumed that this was because she thought the wafer would choke me. But then she opened the bottle and poured some pop into the cornet, which of course, ended up a mushy mess on the ground. "Well," she said, when we could stop laughing, "I thought I'd give you a drink!"

With every good wish, Yours sincerely, AUDREY JOHNSTON, (Miss)

"Angers House," 2 Church Rd., Wavertree,

# GOOD RESPONSE HONG KONG

Dear Mr. Beckett,

Thank you very much indeed for forwarding to me, via the Westminster Bank, the two copies of Spastics News containing the news of our work here.

The £250 collected before I left England was enough to buy and patch up an old van and get it on the roads for the time being. I have not heard from the Bank that there are any donations, but the photograph you printed drew response from the wives of the

diplomatic mission in Hong Kong. Their interest and enthusiasm has already greatly assisted us. So thank you very much for being instrumental in

With very best wishes for 1968 from the Spastics Association of Hong Kong to our friends in the British Spastics Society.

Yours sincerely, HEATHER CAMPBELL (Mrs.) 4. Mount Davis Road, Hong Kong.

# THE DIRECTOR WRITES . . .

FOR MANY YEARS the Society spoke of "Spastics" as if they were all alike and indeed simplification of this sort was essential if the public was to come to grips with the problem of how to help spastics.

In fact the term "Spastic" as

we use it is not a medical term: It is a very loose way of referring to Cerebral Palsy which term describes



cribes a conglomeration of disorders.
From this over-simplification
stems the legend that all
spastics were of more or less
average intelligence and that
their functioning at home, at
school and in the community
was hindered only by physical handicap.

This view of the situation is of course quite false. Cerebral Palsy is the result of brain "damage" - not necessarily damage by doctors or midwives or others during or around the time of birth, but damage which may have been incurred in utero or because of an unknown or uncontrollable agent. It can affect the intellectual functioning of a person suffering from the disorder and approximately half of all spastics suffer from some degree of intellectual impairment.

A great many of these are in a measure of great satisfaction.

the educationally sub-normal range, that is to say that with special education they will probably do quite well. However, between one-quarter and one-fifth of all spastics have a severe mental retardation. Many of these also have a serious physical handicap. The strain upon parents of looking after children so badly afflicted can be severe indeed. Furthermore, the facilities, both day and residential, which the State provides, are bad in a great many areas.

This is why the Society, after having done so much work to help other spastics, has now become deeply concerned about the fate of spastics who are also mentally handicapped. This is a field in which we would willingly cooperate with other voluntary bodies with the same concern.

Our policy is now developing, a special Study Group has been set up to report to the Executive Committee and in the meantime everything will be done to focus attention upon the poor conditions which so many parents must expect when they can no longer look after their children

# From SPASTICS NEWS — Ten. Years Ago

IN ITS FIRST Annual Report, the Management Committee of Hawksworth Hall Assessment Centre state that improvements shown by the children had been "not only gratifying but amazing."

The year's work had justified itself and the risk of undertaking such an experiment had been well worth while. Appreciative letters from parents also showed a measure of great satisfaction.

#### MARGARET HELPS PAN-CAKE DAY RAG



Margaret Penrose from Oakwood, being hauled round Colchester on a hospital bed. When Margaret suggested to her friends that she might take part in the Rag Day organised by the N.E. Essex Technical College, they thought she was mad, but with willing help from all hands it was a great success and she had a bed's eye view of Colchester.

(Photo: East Anglian Times).

# IN THE WEST In Cornwall, with its graphical difficulties, the fic care of spastics has s

by Therese Appleby

LAUGHTER GREETED Philip Varcoe's blatant demand when, at the opening of the first holiday flats for Cornish spastics in Par in 1964, he asked "some kind person to give a mansion, preferably in West Cornwall and in the middle of a town" to provide a residential home for older spastics.

The need for accommodation for older spastics all over the country is very great and The Cornish Spastics Society has only been in operation for five years.

During that time five committees have been formed in St. Austell; Camborne and Redruth; Newquay, St. Columb and Perranporth; Truro and West Cornwall. The first essential was to discover how many spastics in Cornwall there were and those who needed help. And, of course, funds had to be raised to finance the scheme.

In Cornwall, with its geographical difficulties, the specific care of spastics has started later than in many parts of the country, although this basically can only be measured in two decades, since the treatment and recognition of spastics has only come about in the past twenty years.

Varcoe House, the holiday home for spastics, came into being because Philip Varcoe was made trustee of an older spastic, Ian MacGillivray. When Ian's mother died Mr. Varcoe bought his house and, with the help of the funds raised by local committees, had it converted into a much-needed holiday home for parents with spastic children, realising the great need of parents with these handicapped children for whom few facilities are available.

#### DOORS ARE WIDE

It's no holiday taking a handicapped child into a hotel or boarding house.

So at Varcoe House, Par, the doors are wide enough to take wheelchairs, the layout so arranged that a mother cooking a meal in the kitchen can still keep an eye on her child—a child who may be four or fourteen.

Camborne, employing around 2,800 staff, with fifteen companies overseas. Fifty-one per cent or everything they make in Camborne goes overseas, contributing considerably to the export market.

Jim Holman and his family had lived in a large house in Camborne — Rosewarne — for three generations. But he and his wife decided the house was too big for them. So first of all they turned it into offices. Then the business grew and new premises were built, leaving Rosewarne empty.

He could have sold it for a lot of money but, because his mother had always been interested in helping other people, he thought instead of giving it to some worthwhile charity. By chance he read the report of Philip Varcoe's speech in a local paper and his decision was made.

#### A LARGE MANSION

This was to be the residential home for spastics, a large mansion set in the heart of a community where the residents could become part of the community instead of leading lives of isolation, something that so often happens to spastics.

So Rosewarne, Camborne, is row the Gladys Holman House—called after Jim Holman's mother. It has been adapted and altered to accommodate twenty-five older spastics. Lifts have been installed, doors widened to accommodate wheelchairs, corridors altered, laundries installed, a new heating system, specialised plumbing and toiletting fitted to meet the needs of heavily handicapped spastics.

It was very costly to adapt this building which was paid for by The Spastics Society in London, but to have built a new one would have meant spending a great deal more.

#### AN ACTIVE PART

Mr. Holman and his wife, who is an artist, intend to play an active part in seeing that the Gladys Holman House is a real home for these severely handicapped people who have grown too old and too heavy for their parents and relatives to care for them.

One of the first residents will be Ian MacGillivray, the man for whom Philip Varcoe was the trustee.

But this is only the beginning of what it is hoped will be the main spastic centre in Cornwall, since the nearest help for spastics is in Ply-

The needs of spastic children of school age are adequately catered for in Cornwall yet Dr. Ward, Senior Medical Officer for Child Health admits that "there is no provision for the under fives."

# In Praise of Provincialism

# by TOUCHSTONE

'SIR, THE MAN who is tired of the Provinces is tired of life.' Dr. Johnson's dictum went unrecorded at the time, it is believed because Boswell was away wenching. Nevertheless that great man, who never stirred from Fleet Street unless it was to go to Whitehall, did undertake a strenuous and monumental walking tour through the Highlands, and was disappointed.

This is the foolishness of the wise; they must needs go to Heaven via Tooting Bec, in enumerating the stars they trip over their own bootlaces.

How much better for the good Doctor had he taken horse and ridden through the Shires like William Cobbett. The sweet smiling Weald of Kent, the wooded lanes of Surrey and Sussex were on his doorstep. But no, he would none of that, he was a glutton for company, and a gourmet of the cobbled street and the coffee-house.

Millions followed his example, fleeing the inhospitable winters of the country-side for the stench of the city—and the process continues.

BUT now there is a contrary impulse under the more fashionable word of "Regionalism." As each new concrete box of offices rears its ugly head above the metropolis—the cry of "De-centralise" is heard. A number of rather charming market towns are now going to have their populations arbitrarily raised from 25,000 to 125,000. But will this invigorate the locality or destroy it? It looks as though the idea is to scatter England's

HUGH'S VIEW



Dr. Samuel Johnson registering limited approval of Scottish customs; Mr. James Boswell concurs.

green and pleasant land with a rash of little Londons. This is more likely to reproduce the faults of a conurbation strangling itself to death without any of the distinction imparted to it by history.

And yet this would be a monstrous shame; as Britain stands at the crossroads of the mid 20th century, punchdrunk but stiff-upper-lipped, an opportunity to revivify life for the overcrowded population is being offered which may never come again.

POR the European is a great villager. He is "provincial" to his finger tips. From the Baltic to the Mediterranean all the arts and industries which our own civilisation has only developed further were bequeathed to us from the associations of free men who built the Medieval cities.

Once the village communes had managed to overcome the tyranny of a thousand petty despots, an incredible flowering of natural genius took place.

At the beginning of the 11th century, the bulk of the people were living in mud huts; in three or four hundred years some of Europe's most beautiful buildings had been built.

This, not at the behest of a Pharaoh with countless slaves at his command, but by the unique operation of the Guilds of craftsmen.

Is it too much to hope that the all-powerful Unions will transform themselves from wage-negotiators to creative organisers, more concerned with the quality of the work than the price for it? It probably is.



But when Mr. Varcoe's cry went out for help at the opening of these holiday flats, it did not fall on barren ground. The local press reported the speech and, incredibly, a benefactor was found.

James Holman (Mr. Jim to his staff) is the chairman of Holman Brothers Limited at AT VARCOE HOUSE

A group photo taken by Mrs
Appleby of Mr. Philip Varcoe
and the Mayor of Truro, with
lan MacGillivray and another
resident in wheel-chairs.

# EIGHT STAGE FINALS SKETCH

EIGHT GIRL MEMBERS of the Cardiff 62 Club gave a theatrical sketch in the Cardiff Youth Eisteddfod finals on 5th April, depicting their success in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

The eight members were competing in a special section organised by the Eisteddfod committee for the "Endeavour Cup". The audience heard how the girls first decided to enter the Award Scheme and what they did to win their silver and bronze medals.

### Long Walks

Leading player Frances Gunning, aged 18 and Producer Rita Price, also 18, walked a mile along a rough country lane to win their silver medals. Sandra Wilding, aged 18, on crutches and Gayle Atkins, aged 16, on sticks, walked more than two miles to win theirs.

For Helen Garland, aged 16, it was an even longer journey in the silver award—a fourmile walk—while 15-year-old Jacky Gibbs propelled herself in her wheelchair for a mile along a country lane.

#### Gold Medals

All six are now aiming for their gold medals.

Also appearing was Ann Holley, aged 20, a bronze medal winner who is confined to a wheelchair and Pat Collard, aged 22.

Miss Kay Flynn, 62 Club Leader, who wrote the sketch, said: "We did it as a tribute to the scheme and to show how spastics can participate.

"The scheme is a challenge to their capabilities. Very often they are kept in the background because people do not think they are capable of this sort of thing."

# Alan's hobby brought him a bounty

Alan Vernon, a 12-year-old spastic from Liverpool, collects pennants and badges of various towns and cities. A mention of this hobby in his local newspaper brought hundreds of presents pouring in for Alan from readers. These included a pennant from Pitcairn Island sent by John Christian, M.B.E., sixth generation descendant of Fletcher Christian, of H.M.S. Bounty.

# Pretty Penzance



Sixteen-year-old Christina Elwood of St. Ives, Cornwall, thought she "didn't have a chance" when she entered for a "Miss Penzance" contest at a Valentine's Day Ball held by the West Cornwall Spastics Association. But Christina won and now has the chance of a television appearance.

(Photo: The Cornishman Newspaper).

# ... for 14 Dora years' service

Members of Blackburn Spastics Society presented Mr. Frank Savoury, Hon. Secretary, with a stainless steel tea set and a small standard lamp to mark his retirement from the Society after 14 years. Mr. Savoury is leaving Lancashire to take up a post at the new Mint in South Wales.

# SCHOOL WILL COST £17,000

mmmmmm

CHESHIRE'S first school for handicapped children is being built by the Sale, Altrincham and District Spastics Society as an extension to their Pictor House Centre, and should be in operation at the end of the year.

The new school, which will cost £17,000—to be raised by voluntary effort—will accommodate approximately 30 children and be run in conjunction with Cheshire County Council. Already Pictor House gives care, treatment and training to 50 children from Cheshire, Lancashire and Derbyshire, and operates Britain's only night-care scheme of its kind for the disabled.

# Easter painting spree in Paris

SEVENTEEN PHYSICALLY handicapped young people between the ages of 17 and 23 recently spent an eight-day painting and sightseeing holiday in Paris. The trip was sponsored by the National Association of Youth Clubs and 15 able-bodied young people accompanied the disabled group, 14 of whom were in wheelchairs.

The party travelled in ambulances and stayed at a school for the physically handicapped whose pupils had gone home for the holidays. Apart from visiting Fontainebleau, the Louvre and all the usual tourist haunts, the party were guests on Easter Monday at the Chateau Courance, home of Compte and Comptesse Ganay.

# Dora said "Hello"

THE MIDLAND SPASTIC ASSOCIATION Spring Fair held on 23rd March at the Institute Road School, Kings Heath was a resounding success.

The crowd of about 350 was delighted by the personal appearance of Miss Dora Bryan, who is starring in "Hello Dolly" at the Birmingham Theatre. Miss Bryan met all the spastics and many of the small children.

She kindly gave lots of autographs and signed photographs. Her bright personality and charm contributed greatly to the occasion. One mother, in particular, will always remember the day. Her child was given a flower by Miss Bryan from her bouquet, for Mothers Day.

# There is so much work to be done:

# SUCCESS IMAGE — BUT MONEY IS URGENTLY

# NEEDED SAYS SOCIETY'S DIRECTOR

REPRESENTATIVES of Local Authorities and Local Groups from all over South Wales attended the fourth Annual Conference of the South Wales Region at Ty Maeth, Headquarters Welsh Board of the Royal College of Nursing, Cardiff, on Saturday, the 30th March.

The Chairman was Mr. Trevor Rees of Porthcawl, who is Chairman of Kenfig Hill Spastics Society and a member of the Executive Committee.

The first speaker was the Director of the Spastics Society, Mr. J. A. Loring, who referred to the fact that some sixteen years ago when the old National Spastics Society was formed its original purpose was to provide specialist education for spastics of school age, residential accommodation for adults and to do what ever could be done in the way of research. This policy continued and some seven years ago the programme of building a number of residential establishments was accelerated.

### Day Care

Units

Very little provision had originally been made for those spastics who were mentally severely sub-normal and these amount to some 25 per cent of the total. The Society opened the first "School for the Unscholarly" at Meldreth, near Cambridge, and local Voluntary Societies, of which there are several in South Wales, embarked on a programme of erecting Day Care Units for this type of spastic.

A proportion of severely subnormal spastics reside in hospitals for the sub-normal, and Mr. Loring, making the point that he did not know anything about such Hospitals in South Wales, said that there were throughout England some Hospitals where conditions were very poor indeed. This type of Hospital has been omitted from the Ten Year Plan for the re-organisation of the Hospital Service, which was published some five years ago.

Mr. Loring forcibly made the point that the Spastics Society could not do any of the work it ought to do or wished to do without money. He said that in spite of the Society's image of success, money is urgently needed for the work which is to be done.

#### The Causes

and Effects

The second Speaker was Dr. Reginald C. Webster, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H., a Divisional Medical Officer of Health for Lancashire County Council (better known as a Television Celebrity).

Dr. Webster outlined the causes and effects of cerebral palsy and said that as far as is known in England and Wales

20,000 children of school age suffered in this way.

He then proceeded to say that early assessment of the child was vital and he enumerated the various facilities available from Local Authorities and Hospital Boards, pointing out that physiotherapy was not always a good thing in fact in some cases could have a detrimental effect. He emphasised that wherever possible spastic children should attend normal school and that home tuition was very much a second heet

#### Specialised

#### Housing

Dr. Webster said that he felt very strongly that Local Authorities should provide specialised housing facilities in normal residential areas. There should also be better facilities for young adult handicapped people who lose their parents. He concluded by saying that voluntary bodies, such as The Spastics Society, had a vital role to play in the work for handicapped people, not least to be there to prod statutory bodies into further action.

The Conference finished with an open forum, when questions from the delegates were answered by a Panel, consisting of Dr. Webster, Mrs. P. A. Smith, Regional Social Worker, Mr. A. M. Frank, Chief Regional Officer, and Mr. Brian Kingsley-Davies, South Wales Regional Officer.

# Bedlam – but it raised £1,000

ON THE NIGHT OF SUNDAY, April 7th, one of the most popular Discotheques in London, "Sibylla's" was taken over by Miss Sibylla Edmonstone, for a party in aid of the Cheyne Walk Centre for Spastic Children.

For an individual effort in fund raising this was an outstanding success; as a result of a number of generous donations—including the free use of the Club, about £1,000 was cleared to buy equipment at the Centre.

But oh—the Bedlam! The Club was packed with the most elegant and spirited of the swinging young, (I counted four Bonnies and several Clydes amongst the throng), and the party went with a bang that would put supersonic explosions to shame. The sound was turned up to ear-splitting volume, but with champagne flowing, who cares?

#### Model Cars

Special thanks are due to Major Trevor Dawson, who conducted a lively Auction of items that included two scale-model racing cars, kindly presented by the Ford Motor Co., paintings, a monkey, two South American cage-birds, and a mini-car. Among the buyers we noted James Wyzard, the Hon. Michael Pearson and Simon Dee.

No less than 13 prizes were raffled, which included several magnificent gifts from Major Dawson himself and clothes from Rupert Lycett-Green's fashionable emporium. Blades.

fashionable emporium, Blades.
In a lull from the discs,
Michael D'Abo made a special
appearance with the Original
Band of Angels,
O. R. B.

# Cross Country — for £370



Sixth formers from Worthing Technical High School staged a 24 miles cross-country walk recently, in aid of Worthing, Littlehampton & District Spastics Society. Of 68 starters only seven failed to stay the course. As a result the pupils raised £370.

(Photo: Worthing Herald).

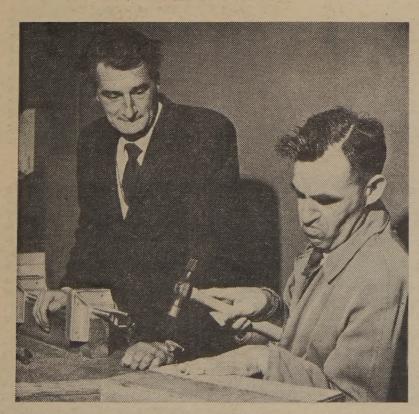
There's no avoiding the paper work these days—even on a farm. Here Alan King, the Warden, goes over the accounts with his wife, Marjorie, who helps with the secretarial side of the office.



A number of trees had to be felled to make room for the proposed new shop, and Bill Crossley and Mike Gagnon made short work of sawing and chopping up the branches for fire-wood.



In the new greenhouse the potted plants are brought on. Steve Humphreys, the staff market gardener and Alex Cayle are here preparing pots of cyclamen and pelargoniums for sale.



Farm Bailiff, Ted Rhodes, watches John Faithfull making good progress putting seed-boxes together—a popular line with the customers.

The wood for these boxes comes economically from Portugal.

# EVERYTHING'S A-BLOWING AND

AT THORNGROVE

# Spastics like the Country Life

Report of a visit to the farm by The Editor

(Pictures by Gillingham Photo Services)

AS THE TRAIN rattled through Basingstoke there was not a vestige of the freak snowstorm of the day before to be seen. Under a Constable sky of drifting cumulus clouds, the herds of Friesians out on the Hampshire hills were grazing peacefully, with here and there a lone tractor chugging across the barley breaks with a roller.

I was heading towards Dorset, and the farm taken over by the Society a few years ago at Thorngrove, near Gillingham, and officially opened by the then Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Fred Peart, in October, 1966.

## PIONEERING PAYS OFF

What progress had been made since the Warden, Mr. Alan King, had written to Spastics News in March '66 in the amusing vernacular of the district, that: "T'fust five residents arrived on t'fust o' December, an' I reckon as how them looked a likely bunch o' lads?" Those five, Colin Purefoy, Brian Shaw, Maurice Slade, Douglas Sharp, Martin Tierney were later joined by Jim Currie, Philip Turner, Douglas Bishop and Sylvia Fowler, and seven of those are still at the farm.

There are now twenty male residents and four females who work in the house. As usual with Society Centres, everything was spic and span, with Mrs. King's feminine touch showing in the bowls of daffodils in the rooms.

#### PLANS REVISED

Owing to the disabilities of even ambulant spastics, some of the more ambitious plans have had to be abandoned, such as operating a dairy herd with a milking parlour. Now Mr. King and the farm bailiff, Mr. Ted Rhodes, are working a more practical system of raising baconers and rearing beef calves through to killing out weight.

They are also developing a market garden which promises to be a money-spinner, and helps some of the men to be employed on tasks more suited to their capabilities than, say, mucking out the calf stalls!

The farmstead is a large Victorian mansion grafted onto earlier buildings, and it stands on a rise more or less at the centre of the 40 odd acres, a mile or so from Gillingham village. It is all in old permanent pasture and the soil is a freak bolt of clay running from S.W. to N.E. The deeper green of the early growth of grass at Thorngrove was noticeable compared to the surrounding meadows.

The farm was run down when the Society took it over and there wasn't a proper gate on the place. The staff and residents have worked like Trojans putting up new gates and repairing fences. There is no more unpopular farmer than one who doesn't fence against his own stock! All that kind of pioneering is in a sense non-productive, but it is still essential.

The pastures have also had generous dressings of slag and f.y.m. When I went into the yard, a team were mucking out the two calf sheds and loading it onto the muck-spreader. Some of this valuable source of humus is composted for the vegetable plot.

The bunch of 30 Friesian-cross calves had only been turned out the day before the blizzard, so had to be brought in the previous night, but they were out in the field again looking well and enjoying the sunshine.

#### LARGE WHITES

Vociferous squealing from the yard proclaimed the fact that Martin Tierney and Brian Shaw were feeding the pigs.

These Large Whites are housed in a building specially adapted for them, in six compartments holding twelve head apiece. Here again the staff had to take matters into their own hands and practically rebuild the pens with a raised passageway for easy working.

Eighteen Friesian-cross stores are housed in an extension to the Dutch barn, also largely constructed by farm labour. Five had just been sold to the F.M.C. at a reasonable profit.

Several tons of good baled hay were left in the barn from last year's crop, which is baled on contract. Some 450 bales were won in 1967.

There are two greenhouses for raising potted plants; the original one had to have practically every pane of glass renewed. The new one was presented by General and Mrs. Meneces to Thorngrove last year and Alex Cayle was potting cyclamens most efficiently with the help of Steve Humphreys, the market gardener.

When I was there they were just felling a number of young elms in the forecourt to



COME AND GET IT!

This nice bunch of Friesian and Friesian-cross-Hereford calves were enjoying the sunshine after the storm, but soon came up from their corner of the paddock when Tony Udell shook his bag of nuts at them to tell them it was dinner-time.

make room for a pavilion-type shop where produce can be sold direct to the public.

The farm is well known for its good quality greens, beans and salad crops, but most of the profit, of course, goes at the moment to the middlemen concerned.

Another useful enterprise to the farm economy is making seed-boxes. These can be delivered in any quantity up to 5 gross within 24 hours' notice. A van that came to them second-hand from Coombe Farm has proved invaluable for this service.

just not there. The delicate touch necessary with plants is again a problem.

But standing on the terrace outside the house there is proof of persistence before one's eyes. Eight flowerbeds, 10 x 20, full of roses—and every bed dug out of the turf by a spastic.

for t

The spacion

#### CONTRACT JOB

A bad weather job that keeps some of the residents busy is a contract from a local firm, parcelling up abrasive discs for sanding machine.

The house itself is airy and conveniently laid out for eleven dormitories with ample sitting-room space and a model kitchen. Mr. and Mrs. King live in the Lodge at the end of the drive.

The Warden runs the establishment with the minimum of rules—except bed-time at 10.30 during the week and 11 on Saturdays. One or two chaps sometimes go down to the local pubs, but on the whole the place is too remote for very much social life.

Whether there can really be any sort of career for spastics in agriculture—except at a centre like this—is still, however, open to doubt. Unsteady balance is a serious danger when dealing with boisterous cattle, and supervision is necessary for many jobs which normally do not call for it.

Also getting onto and driving a tractor would be beyond the ability of most spastics; on the other hand, a lot of tasks still demand a degree of sheer physical strength which is

# These little Pigs are g

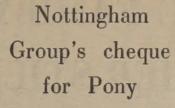


# AND A-GROWING



THE SOUTH FRONT.

The spacious homestead of Thorngrove looks over the pleasant Dorset countryside. This view includes the old and the new green houses and part of the strawberry beds in the foreground.



AT THE LAST MEETING of Nottingham Group held in March, the speaker was Mrs. R. Gardiner, Secretary of the East Midlands Riding Association. At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. H. E. Wolff, Group Chairman, presented a cheque for £75 to Mrs. Gardiner with which to buy another pony. Three spastic children from the Group are already enjoying pony riding, and it is hoped that the gift of another pony will enable more spastics from Nottingham to enjoy the facilities provided by the Association.

## New Group at Selby

A Spastics Society has been formed in Selby and District to raise money and increase facilities for spastic children. It will be affiliated to the York and District Spastics Group. Committee officers elected after a recent inaugural meeting were: Chairman, Mrs. M. Jackson; Secretary, Mrs. B. Clarke; Treasurer, Mr. S. Jackson.

# 'WE WENT TO A WEDDING'

**Doreen James** and Loggie Wood are Wed at Feering

ON SATURDAY, APRIL 6, we went to a wedding, just an ordinary wedding, except that the bride and bridegroom happened to be spastics. To my friend Judith Warren and myself, perhaps, it was somewhat an unusual occasion, for we were about to lose two valued colleagues, Loggie Wood and Doreen James, both members of the hard core of Prested Hall, and we both felt very deeply about it.

The church was full of people, and I switched on my tape-recorder as I was going to record the proceedings. Presently Loggie Wood came in with his best man, he looked very calm, and yet I know that he was very nervous, as all bridegrooms are. By this time the church was almost packed with all our friends, and the moment came when I got a signal from the organist, and I pressed my recording-button,



Loggie Wood prepares to push his new bride, née Miss Doreen James, down the aisle in her wheelchair. She wore a lovely lace dress and was (Photo: Alex Muirhead) carrying a bouquet of red carnations.

knowing that Judith would now take over.

Judith's head now turned towards the porch, where there were signs of movement, and at that moment Doreen James entered, looking quite beautiful in a dress of champagne lace. She was carrying a bouquet of red carnations, and wore a head-dress of pink carn-

Her chair was pushed up the aisle by her brother-in-law, a military-looking figure, who gave her away, and behind her walked her two bridesmaids in dresses of apricot crimplene, one a young woman in her early twenties, and the other celebrating her eleventh birthday that very day.

This small party made its way up to the chancel step, where it was joined by the bridegroom and best man, and then the service opened with the singing of the first hymn

Looked Charming

"Love Divine" The hymn ended, and the proceedings came into my own scope of vision once more. The whole party looked absolutely charming, the bridesmaids were very attentive, Susan Whiter, of workshop fame, looked

radiant and Gilda, the Warden's daughter, exuded the Watsonian self-assurance of her grand-father, Joe, the late Warden.

Loggie said his piece in a clear and firm voice, with hardly a tremble, while Doreen, for whom speech is difficult, made her responses in a selfassured whisper, which at times was only picked up by my rike, which hung unashamedly on a candlestick.

#### Symbolic

Then came the signing of the register, during which we sang the great psalm Crimond. This, to me, was the most moving of the whole service, because it symbolised everything we have done at Prested, and as I bent over my machine, tears were dripping on to the deck. The ceremony ended with the hymn "Lead us, Heavenly Father, lead us", and the happy couple left the church in a blaze of Mendelsohn's glory.

The reception, which was attended by some hundred and fifty people, was held in the workshop here at Prested Hall, and 1'r. and Mrs. Wood departed, leaving Judith and me with very mixed feelings.

> By Ernest Barnes and Judith Warren.

# 'Three Ideals' for Preston Ladies' Charity Football

Youth Committee

This Committee was formed officially on Tuesday, 11th October, 1966, though prior to that date these teenagers had formed themselves together, offered their services to Preston & District Group Spastics

Society, and Lad organised a

"Ladies' Charity Football

Match" which had raised £36.

The Executive of the Preston & District Spastics Group, at their September 1966 meeting, asked Mr. L. Redmayne to become leader of this group of young workers for the society, and this he agreed to do, his mandate being to organise and mould them into a committee on proper foundations.

#### Not an easy task

At the first meeting on Octoagers attended, and Mr. Redmayne acted as chairman. He explained the purpose of the proposed committee, and stressed that it was not an easy task those present were taking on. He also suggested that they had as a basis to work upon three ideals:-

- 1. To organise money rais-
- ing events. 2. To help at the Preston

Spastic Centre if required.

3. To help, if needed, the other committees of the Preston Society.

The teenagers present at this first meeting agreed to use these three suggested "rules" as their foundation, and then selected a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary and treasurer.

Mr. Redmayne then vacated the chair and Mr. Graham Turner took his place as chairman of this Youth Committee, and is still in that office.

Since then meetings have been held monthly, and in the first 12 months this Youth Committee raised £77 8. 0., and successfully organised other nonfund-raising activities from October to Christmas 1967.

Raffle £16 18. 0. raised. Spent getting two upholstered children's chairs and one double-sided easel for the use of the children at the Day Centre.

Spring Fayre-£21 10. 0 raised. Paid to treasurer and included in the total of £550 clear profit made by the Society. (This Fayre was a combined effort by the Spastics Society, Preston).

Game-£25 0. 0. raised. Paid to Society treasurer. Raffle-£5 0. 0. raised.

Being used as a float by Youth Committee. Raffle-£9 0. 0. raised Spent

on taking coach load of spastics from 5 to 22 years of age to see Blackpool Illumina-

Grand total in 12 months-£77 8. 0.

It also had raised in 1966 before they became an official committee, £36 from a Ladies' Charity Football game.

#### Other Events

They assisted at Spastics Christmas Party 1966; held party at local restaurant for 20 teenage spastics, paid for out of their own pockets; persuaded the leading hotel in Preston, "The Bull and Royal Hotel," to have a beacon in one of their bars; paraded around the centre of Preston on a cold (Feb. 1967) Saturday afternoon carrying placards and distributing leaflets to shoppers, to advertise the Spastics Society's two day Fayre; helped to organise with other spastic committee a "Bottle Stall" at the local Round Table's "Donkey Derby." They also manned the stall themselves, and in three hours made £25, which the Round Table people allowed us to put in the Spastics Society fund; rehearsed for weeks the pantomime "Cinderella" and presented it successfully at the Spas-tic Christmas Party 1967 and paid all expenses themselves.

# May 26th — June 1st FRIENDSHIP WEEK FOR SICK AND HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

Patron: H.R.H. Princess Margaret

Ten Charitable Societies concerned with children who are handicapped are combining to promote concern for the relief of suffering during this period.

It is estimated that one child in twenty-five suffers from some kind of chronic illness or handicap—they and their families need help. Write for further details to:-

INVALID CHILDREN'S AID ASSOCIATION

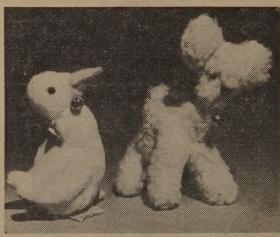
126 Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W.1.

#### NOTTINGHAM ANNUAL

BALL

NOTTINGHAM GROUP'S ANNUAL Ball shared with the Guild for the Disabled was this year held on Thursday, 4th April, at the Sherwood Rooms, Nottingham. Invited guests included His Grace the Duke of Rutland, Alderman Mrs. E. A. Yates, Chairman of the County Council, and the Sheriff of Nottingham and his lady. The Ball is expected to realise approximately £780.

### QUACK-QUACK and BAA-BAA the children love them!



DUCK (6" high) 8/6d, each 9/66 (Prices include postage)

LAMB (8" high) 9/6d. each

Nylon Filled Soft Toys. Washable—Drip-dry or Spin Dry — and made by spastic homeworkers.

Please send soft toys as advertised in the April issue of "Spastics News" I enclose cheque/P.O. No. .....

(BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE)

Name ..... Address .....

TO: The Sales Office, Homework Section, The Spastics Society, 16 Fitzroy Square, London, W.1. Telephone: 01-387 9571

EVERY TOY YOU BUY GIVES WORK TO A **SPASTIC** 



Martin Tierney empties a pail of fattening mealwhich has been carefully weighed, into the pig sty for the hungry mouths, seen below!

# gs are going to Market

ver-

ery

ic.





Miss Margaret Mather seen in her well-designed kitchen, getting to work with the tin-opener . . . .

# 20 Pages of Information About Kitchen Gadgets

COOKING PRESENTS many problems to the elderly and to disabled people, from the old lady whose rheumatic hands cannot open a screw-top bottle, to the young wheelchair housewife who has broken her back in a driving accident (or the spastic child who faces a life of disability). The range is endless.

It is not generally appreciated that there are ordinary items of kitchen equipment on the open market which can solve many of these problems and in some cases make cooking a practical proposition where it was just not possible

The Disabled Living Activities Group of the Central Council for the Disabled has investigated what is at present available in the shops and has published a most useful 20page List with many observations as a result of its findings.

It is available from the Disabled Living Activities Group at the address below, at a cost of 5/9d. including postage. Further enquiries to:-

The Group Director, Disabled Living Activities Group, 39 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

## USEFUL BOOK

#### LIST

"London for the Disabled" price 6/9d.

"List of Kitchen Equipment" price 5/9d. "Problems of Clothing for the

Sick and Disabled" price

"Gardening and the Disabled Child" price 1/6d. "Dressmaking for the Disabled" price 3/-.

# WHEN THE FAMILY'S AWAY—

# MISS MATHER STILL EATS WELL

Cookery Hints by Margaret Mather

WHEN THE REST of the family plan a week-end away, leaving me alone, (except for Gussie, the cat), the words are always the same, "Will you be all right?"

I promise faithfully not to take the fire-guard away, except to put coal on the fire, and they promise faithfully to remove all small rugs, mats and small pieces of carpet, (I can trip over a straight pin!) and away they go.

Now there are some spastics, as I know from reading Spastics News who love "roughing it." They go to camp and sleep in tents, peel mountains of potatoes, or walk for miles. These things are not for me.

"Everything as easy as possible" is my motto. I'm not lazy, and if I have to peel mountains of potatoes or walk miles I'll do so, but not if I can possibly get out of it!

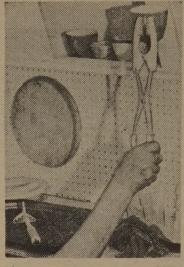
I love food, and like it varied. I couldn't live for a week-end on baked beans or fish and chips, but if you have a predudice against tinned or frozen food, don't read any

### HANDY WITH THE TIN-OPENER

In planning my week-end meals I made full use of these things. I know a little is lost in food value and flavour, but only a very little. I shopped around a long time ago, for a really stout tin-opener which I could use easily, as I'm lefthanded. It was a job to find! Strangely enough, I could never manage our wall opener.

The family were away recently from early Saturday morning until Sunday evening. Breakfast, for me, is always

the same:—Orange juice, breakfast biscuits, a banana and several cups of tea-and I always have it in bed! I have a simple tea-maker. Not the expensive kind, with a light and a clock, but one which I switch on when I wake, and which boils and brews the tea whilst I am listening to the news. (No use for people who drop



These elongated pincers enable a wheel-chair bound person to reach up to things on a high shelf.

strained baby food, and warmed gently.

The asparagus was tinned. The ham, tomatoes and fried bread were all cooked together. Fruit tart and cake came from the local shop. The trifle I made on the Saturday evening.

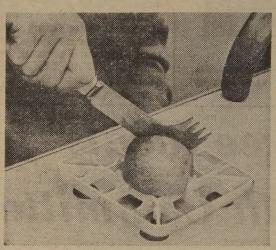
I empty all tinned foods into a pan before warming-no coping with hot tins, for me!

HOLIDAY BUNGALOW TO LET

> SELF CATERING, AT Highlands Park, Thorpe Road, Clacton

FULLY FURNISHED AND FULLY EQUIPPED "EXCEPT LINEN" Modern Kitchen with Refrigerator Shower Bath and Toilet Electricity supplied by Slot Meter Mains Water in Chalet Main Drainage SITE AMENITIES: Swimming Pool (heated), Large Bar, Dance Hall, Games Room SHOP

TO ACCOMMODATE 6 PERSONS All Information: 10, Glynde Street, Crofton Park, S.E.4. Tele: 690 3618



A plastic stand with rubber feet to hold an apple for peeling onehanded.

off to sleep again—though it does buzz when the tea is

The tea-maker, tea-pot, and breakfast biscuits are kept upstairs, so that all I need to take upstairs are the tray with orange juice and usual breakfast things.

Suppers are usually biscuits or a sandwich so on this recent week-end the food problem was two mid-day dinners and two teas with the minimum effort and the minimum amount of walking.

in case I stumble, so to save carrying tea things to the dining room I use a beaker and pour out in the kitchen. Gussie, the cat, had tinned food, of course, though when

I always leave one hand free

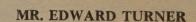
I'm alone I'm apt to spoil her and buy her things like potted shrimps! I'm sure other spastics have found other easy meals and easy ways of doing things.

Perhaps we could pool our ideas in Spastics News? Meanwhile up the tin opener! Forward the frozen food! Good eating, everyone! But don't get too fat! Even five pounds extra weight is like carrying five pounds of

potatoes around with you all

the time!

A versatile implement for turning foodstuffs in the pan.



Treasurer of the Lincoln and District Spastics Society for the last three years, Mr. Edward Turner has died suddenly at his home in Lincoln. He was 64.

As Chairman of the Spastics Society Show Committee since it was set up two years ago, Mr. Turner played an important part in staging the first traction engine and organ rally at Caenby Corner last August. He had taken a keen interest in the work of the Society for a number of years.

## GUY'S PRAM BECOMES A CHAIR



Two views of the Hausmann chair in transit (above) and at rest (right).



The Hausmann Convertible Special Chair for Spastics, as well as being fully adjustable, can be changed from pram wheels to castor wheels for use in the home, as in the first photograph. This chair was first assessed at White Lodge, Chertsey, and as a result of seeing it there, Mrs. Salisbury imported one from Germany. She has told me that when she takes Guy out walking in the chair, as shown in the first photograph, the chair looks more like a new model pushchair, than a special chair for the handicapped. Guy travels with the seating part of his chair to the White Lodge centre, where another pair of castor wheels are ready to receive him. This chair is having a considerable success in Switzerland, Holland and Germany and is imported by Carters (J. & A.) Limited, 65 Wigmore Street, London W.1. for £83 10s. which includes 20% import duty. This price includes indoor frame on castors, pram wheels, seat unit and tray. There are also other attachments such as a weatherproof cover and sunshade, which mendously and seemed to to take up riding an sring era



EQUIPMENT NEWS

A kitchen trolley designed at King's College Hospital for use by the disabled available from Army and Navy Stores, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1. price £12 18s. 6d. including delivery.

Gardening equipment for the handicapped can be obtained from E. J. Woodman & Sons (Pinner) Ltd., 19/ 25 High Street, Pinner, Middlesex, and a comprehensive leaflet describing these 20 tools can be obtained from Information on Aids and Appliances, 12 Park Crescent, London, W.I.

# MENUS FOR

Here is my menu for the week-end:-

Saturday Lunch:

Chicken, peas, potatoes. sausage stuffing, Raspberries and cream.

Asparagus on toast, Fruit Tart, Cake.

Sunday Lunch: Braised steak, carrots. runner beans,

Pears in chocolate sauce.

Ham, fried bread, tomatoes. Trifle, cake.

Both lunches were frozen foods. The first a complete dinner-as the helping of peas was small I added a small packet of frozen ones. Raspberries, tinned cream, a small jar-I found the jar very difficult to open-on future occasions I shall get someone to open it beforehand.

The second lunch, only the meat was frozen, the rest was tinned. I could, of course, have had tinned potatoes, or potato cakes or tinned soup if I had wanted it.

The pears in chocolate sauce was simply a small tin of pears with most of the juice strained off, emptied into a saucepan together with a tin of chocolate,



This young lady finds no difficulty in carrying tea-cups on her balanced tray with a swing handle.

# BEACONS ARE BOOMING

AT THE Spread Eagle, Arundel, Street, Portsmouth, Hants, a pile netting £52 was tipped over by Mr. Charles Hawtrey on August 6th, 1967, which makes the total for this small house now £102.

Staff and friends of the Golden Hind, Copnor Rd., Portsmouth, Hants., held an "Olde Tyme Music Hall" at Christmas time and raffled chocolates for spastics which brought in £5.

The landlord of the White Hart, High St., Arundel, Sussex, Mr. and Mrs. Pile, celebrated 25 years at this house by pushing over a pile of pennies on December 6, 1967 which netted £41 10s. This brings their total to £278 18s. 8d. Mr. Bill Lamb helps a great deal in collecting this money and another pile is well under way. The Coach and Horses, London Road, Portsmouth, has a Water Shoot which has collected £50 in less than two years, and The Saxone Shoe Co., Above Bar, Southampton, has collected £75 in 1967 from their Susie Doll.

The owner of Maison Mario, a pastrycook shop, 217 Albert Road, Southsea, made a large cake, about 15 inches square, iced and decorated it and raffled it at Christmas for spastics. It fetched £3 10s. and although the amount is not large, his kind effort deserves recognition, especially as he has promised to do the same again. "THE GEORGE", WIMBORNE (Mrs. Honeybun)—Beacon installed in May 1958, total to date: £306 10s; "White Hart", Wimborne (Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Willis)—Box ber 1962, total to date: £298 15s 1d; Frampton Arms Hotel, Dorchester - Beacon installed in April 1958, total to date £232 17s; "Forest Home," Hythe — Beacon, Box and a Watershoot are installed with the total to date amounting to: £107 5s 6d; "Swan Inn," Totton (Mr. Cooper)—Beacon has been installed, total to date: f131 10s 0d; "Heathlands Hotel", Bournemouth—installed a Box in April 1965, total to date: f111 2s 0d;

#### — and in Kent

"THE WARDEN BAY HOTEL", near Leysdon, Isle of Sheppey (Mr. and Mrs. Connelly)—have raised with a Beacon and a Wendy Doll: £212 4s 0d, £236 0s 0d, and £440 12s 3d over the last three years; "The Beauty of Bath", Sittingbourne—with a Watershoot installed in May 1967, they have collected £50 10s 4d and £11 12s 1d in the last two years; a Beacon installed in addition to a Box at "The Bell", Wigmore, has totted up £48 1s 9d.

#### — and E. Anglia

"THE ROSE AND CROWN," Dedham—a Watershoot was installed last May and now has made about £56, with approximately £25 due. Last year they held a pram race and a cricket match and collected £35 16s 6d in the Box.



# **Public Were Impressed**

### Photos and Report by the Editor

THURSDAY, APRIL 11th, was sunny and bright, but a daunting Nor'Easterly wind was cutting across the showground at the Easter Hickstead All-England jumping meeting, when the disabled riders put on their display.

This was a major effort of organisation that involved 67 people, and three Riding Establishments. There were a number of C.P. sufferers amongst the riders who took part, but everyone put on a splendid show in the main ring at 3.30, which was covered by T.V. and warmly appreciated by the public.

#### TELEVISION COVERAGE

Four Groups took part. The Pony Riding for the Disabled Trust had brought ponies for eight riders from Chigwell in Essex, and they were divided into two groups. The younger set, aged 8-10, were taken through remedial exercises on horse-back by Mrs. Donna Davies, wife of Mr. John Davies, the Chief Instructor. The other group, aged 14-20 who were more advanced, rode very well, carrying out some routine riding-school movements and jumping an obstacle as well.

#### Advanced Group

Brian Young, who was the National Instructor for the British Horse Society, had another fairly advanced group who showed their paces with considerable ability. They had all only been riding since March 1967. He runs regular classes for the disabled at his Crabbett Park Riding School, near Crawley, and is a knowledgeable and enthusiastic advocate of the benefits, both physical and mental, of this form of recreation for polio or spastic people.

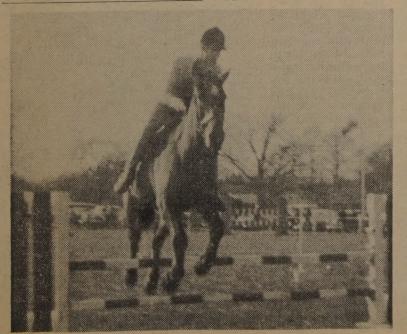
A picturesque assortment of youngsters, some twanging guitars, also came along under the aegis of Mrs. Betty Topping, who runs the Park Gate Riding School at Battle in Sussex. The riders sang nursery rhymes with good rhythm while sitting on their ponies.

A small party of ponytrekkers was also arranged by Mr. Mike Venables, the S.E.R.O., at the last minute, from the Cranleigh Group.

#### Rosettes for All

Mr. Douglas Bunn, who had most kindly agreed to allow this display at this important meeting, provided Hickstead rosettes for all who had participated.

A new young star in the T.V. firmament made his debut with the help of the Duchess of Norfolk, four-year-old Martin Tester. Two years ago he seemed to be so grossly handicapped it was feared he would



Tony Penn leans well forward when jumping the rails in the class taken by Mr. John Davies, Chief Instructor at Grange Farm, Chigwell.

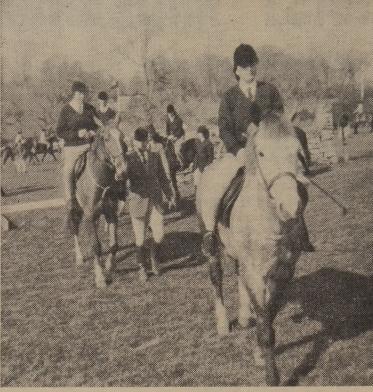
never be able to walk, but since his riding lessons with the Worthing Group, of which the Duchess is President, he has made good progress. Quite un-selfconsciously he proudly waved his rosette at the cameras.

It was a great day for these handicapped boys and girls, and one they enjoyed to the hilt, particularly being able to get the autographs of so many famous riders such as David Broome, Harvey Smith, and Anneli Drummond-Hay. Some of these internationally known figures have promised to go along to Crabbett Park, when they can, to give more encouragement to the movement. It is believed that the Middlesex



Four-year-old Martin Tester who sat his grey pony confidently while talking to the Duchess of Norfolk.

Hospital is also taking an interest. All thanks must go to the many helpers who turned out for the occasion and also to Mr. and Mrs. Bunn themselves.



A more advanced group from Crabbett Park show their paces under the eye of Mr. Brian Young.

## Those taking

#### part —

The riders with Brian Young were—Lorna Wareham, Pamela Glover, Richard Palmer, Dorathy Middleton and Heather Ferguson.

The Chigwell contingent consisted of Jane Valley, Shirley Pereira, Helen Looker, and Barbara Shapland. Also Tony Penn, Michael Cain, David Ryder and Stephen Castle.

#### FOOT NOTE

David Ryder, an ataxic spastic on crutches, went on from this show to do a walk from his home in Battersea, London, to Brighton-a distance of some 52 miles. He was 18 hours on the road and spent the night at Crawley. He was warmly cheered as he passed Hickstead on Easter Monday and most courageously completed his selfappointed task that evening in the sea. Although he did not get his walk sponsored to raise money for buying instruments for the band at Chigwell—some funds are since coming in. A very gallant effort, David!

# NEW HOSTEL FOR MARRIED

SIR HENRY FLOYD, the Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, will be 'on site' on Saturday, 27th April, to perform the traditional turf-cutting ceremony for what will be one

**SPASTICS** 

hostels to provide accommodation for married spastics.

The new hostel is to be built in the grounds of Ponds, the Spastics Society's home for adult spastics near Beaconsfield, Bucks, and Sir Henry will cut

of Britain's first residential

## the first turf at 11 a.m. SOCIETY'S DESIGN

The new building should be completed by the end of October, and the Friends of Ponds have undertaken to meet all the building costs by voluntary effort.

The hostel has been designed by Stephen Thorpe, a young architect in The Spastics Society's own Projects Department. It will accommodate seven more independent residents and two married couples.

# Anne Plummer Reviews Brisbane C.P. Magazine 'UNDAUNTED'

'UNDAUNTED' is a lively magazine published twice yearly for adult spastics in Australia. It is edited by Graham Guest, a resident of Sevenoaks, the Adult Residential centre near Brisbane. (Readers of Spastics News may remember Mr. Guest's interesting description of life at Sevenoaks which was published in the March and April 1966 issues).

The 32-page magazine consists mainly of articles by spastics, both autobiographical and of general interest. There are also conference reports, book reviews, poetry and an entertaining 'Letters to the Editor' section, which show that the problems of spastics downunder are much the same as those of their English counterparts.

#### LETTERS

Letters in the most recent issue comment on the question of whether such a magazine should contain only material relating to Cerebral Palsy or include items of general interest as well. On e correspondent writing in favour of the "specialist" angle says: "We don't buy a copy of 'Hoofs and Horns' to find out how fish are biting, or take a daily newspaper for the knitting patterns."

The opposite view is taken by a man who writes: "General interest essays will show that CP's are capable of thinking about more than only their own problems. . If people have enough intelligence to realise how unfortunate they are to be disabled, then perhaps they will be able to find interest in world affairs or civic events."

The same issue contains a report by two Australian delegates who attended the '62 Club's Conference at Reading last year.

So, exchange being no robbery, we had pleasure in reproducing an amusing article by Mr. Graham Guest.

# "I was proud to show what we could

## do" - says 14-year-old MICHAEL CAIN

I FELT EXTREMELY EX-CITED and honoured when I was told that I had been chosen to take part in a Riding display at the Hickstead All England Jumping Show over Easter.

We had a month to prepare for it, and rehearsals started three times a week at the Riding Centre as well as my normal weekly riding lesson.

I was very apprehensive during those rehearsals as I knew that I would be jumping on ground at Hickstead which so many famous riders had jumped

However, as our practices continued under Mr. Davies our instructor, I began to feel better and at the last rehearsal I felt quite confident in my ability and secure in the knowledge that we would be having one final run-through actually on the Show Ground the day before the display

fore the display.

When we left at 10 a.m. by
Mini-Bus for our first day I
still felt confident, but our journey was frequently interrupted
by traffic jams owing to the

Easter Holiday rush and the long periods of waiting did begin to un-nerve me, but once we were moving again I felt better and by the time we arrived I had worked up a healthy appetite.

The show ground impressed me with its size but it didn't worry me too much although I was staggered at the height of the jumps, and in particular the famous Hickstead Bank, which I talked about for days afterwards, much to the annoyance of my fellow riders.

#### 'No Time to Worry'

Once the final rehearsal started I was only concerned with the job I had to do and had no time to worry. It didn't go as well as I expected and I was disappointed and relieved when it was over and we were returning to Chigwell in the bus singing and talking about it.

Thoughts of how the next day would go did not hinder my sleep and I enjoyed a good night's rest.

Next morning I was glad to set off again for Hickstead although we didn't get very far before we realised we had forgotten to pick up our Phsyiotherapist so we had to turn back for her.

Finally on our way again I began to get butterflies and feel a little sick, but there were plenty of distractions to take my mind off the ordeal, but when I thought about riding in front of so many important people, some of whom I was later to meet, I felt pretty frightened.

The display was delayed for about 15 minutes owing to many competitors having a clear round in the previous event, which put me off a bit, but once we started I was able to concentrate on my part in the Display.

I rode a horse named Patrick in the riding and competitive events and changed to Taffy for the Jumping. Taffy jumped very well for me and cleared all four fences, which pleased me tremendously and seemed to



Mr. Francis Kernan, Director of the Pony Riding for the Disabled Trust, and Dr. B. D. R. Wilson, Consultant Paediatrician at St. Thomas's Hospital.

please everyone involved.

I was very proud at the end when in the presence of the Duchess of Norfolk I was introduced to Peter Robeson and Alison Westwood who presented us all with Winners rosettes and said we had all ridden very well.

During the return journey home I was very tired but satisfied that the Display had been a success.

I hope our display will encourage other disabled people to take up riding as I did. 5 18

# TWO NEW GROUPS IN

Centre

North Herts.?

THE HITCHIN, STEVENAGE and Letchworth group may consider setting up a spastics centre for North Hertfordshire in three or four year's time, according to its Chairman, Mr. Keith Bennett. This would be a long-term project costing £10,000 to £20,000 and money would hvae to be raised all the time to support the centre once it was built.

Mr. Bennett said that a recent survey had revealed that there were about 60 spastics in North Hertfordshire.

The Group has also given £100 towards the new Cheshire Home to be built at Hitchin. It is hoped that at least two local spastics will be accommodated at the Cheshire Home.

# EAST MIDLANDS

Annual Conference at Belvoir

THE EAST MIDLANDS is soon to have two new spastics groups to help alleviate the problem of the many handicapped people in the area.

The first will be established during the next few weeks at Melton Mowbray to serve the town and all places within a 10-mile radius of it. The second will be set up by September in Kettering, and will also serve the Welling-

borough and Corby areas. This was announced at the Spastics Society's annual East Midlands Regional Conference, held at Belvoir Castle under the Chairmanship of the Duke of Rutland.

Mr. H. E. Wolff, Chairman of the East Midlands Regional Advisory Committee, said there were 15 Spastics Groups in the Region at present, and to date they had made contact with 1,192 spastics.

The new Melton Mowbray

Group would act initially as a support for the already wellestablished Group in Loughborough, while the new Kettering Group would extend the activities of the Northampton

Mr. Wolff said that, for the first time, delegates had come to the Conference from every Group in the Region.

Delegates were welcomed personally by the Duchess of Rutland, who said that the Spastics Society was one of the most deserving of all causes because, despite medical progress, the condition was still incurable.

#### More Members

The annual report indicated an increase in Group membership and the formation of closer links with Local Authorities. There was also closer cooperation betweeen Groups in different towns. For example, the Groups in Northampton, Nottingham and Chesterfield had sent donations to help the Lincolnshire Spastics Centre at Brumby Wood Lane, Scunthorpe, and 11 Groups were contributing to The Mount, the Spastics Society's Family Help Unit in Nottingham, to pay fees where the Local Authorities had refused to do so.

The morning speakers included Mrs. Marianne West, a young spastic employed at the Society's London headquarters, who spoke eloquently on "Facing the World," and Mr. F. J. Stephens, Vice-Chairman of the Society's Regions and Co-ordinating Com-Group

After lunch, Dr. T. Wright, a Consultant Physician for handicapped children, spoke on the assessment of the handicapped child. There was also an "Any Questions" session.



Mrs. Vivienne Stone, a guest at the Handlebar Club's 21st Anniversary Dinner, won a tregnum of whisky on the Tombola. With her in the photograph is Dennis "Bunny" Austin, Secretary of the club. The Tombola raised 100 gns. for the S.O.S.

## **Swinging** West Bromwich

West Bromwich and District Spastics Society is certainly making the scene with local teenagers. Four group members led by Anne Broadbent have organised a Discotheque, called the "Nici-Nac." It operates every Tuesday evening under a resident D.J., Peter Jones.

Although none of the four organisers had ever arranged anything of this kind before, they were determined to make it a success. They distributed two thousand leaflets and posters and advertised in the local Press. The result of their hard work has been a weekly attendance of about two hundred. Six weeks after the Discotheque opened, the organisers had paid off all their expenses and still had £100 in the bank,

# MUSIC THERAPY IN ACTION

Sir Adrian was Pleased

organised by the British Society for Music Therapy this year took the form of a concert—and a very enjoyable one.

Over 200 people attended at the spacious Assembly Hall of St. Michael's School, Graham Terrace, S.W.3., and were entertained by a wide range of music and music makers. If any lingering doubts remain as to the value of music to children of widely differing handicaps, this interesting event should have dispelled them.

The President of the Society, Sir Adrian Boult, obviously took great pleasure in the efforts of the young performers. They came from Edward Seguin School, St. Joseph's Convent, Shephall Manor School and St. Bernard's Hospi'l, Southall,

#### Lively Ensemble

Mrs. Margaret Johnson, who presented the lively ensemble from the Seguin School for E.S.N. children had chosen a varied programme to display the talents of her group, which included recorders, cymbals, drums, guitar, with piano accompaniment. She achieved a nice blend of voices in a shanty type song and quite a dramatic rendering of a number called "Kites" which the boys clearly enjoyed doing.

Mrs. Johnson explained that

THE SECOND CONFERENCE it was a rather slow process merging the individual players or singers in the group but one that certainly benefited their morale. She was particularly pleased that only one boy had failed to turn up for this performance-which after all, must have been something of an

ord ! in prospect. She said that they hoped to embark on music and movement in the future, meanwhile they were prepared to tackle any kind of music from classics

Last year, Mr. Lewis Judge's speech was the outstanding ccatribution to the proceedings (see Spastics News: August) and this year one of his ex-pupils at Vallence School, John Solomon, performed prodigies of talent on the trumpet.

John, known as "Butch," has no legs, and only one usable arm with two fingers and a thumb to operate the valves on his specially adapted instrument, but his rendering of Haydn's Trumpet Concerto was remarkable for good intonation and phrasing.

He then moved on to a Jamaican Rumba where he showed his admirable sense of rhythm, finishing up with a spirited version of Alexander's Rag-Time Band.

#### Cheers for "Butch"

The assembled company left "Butch" in no doubt as to how muc they admired his performance.

Another tuneful group, who both sang and played orchestrally concerted items, came from St. Joseph's Convent. Out of only 40 maladjusted (i.e. disturbed or withdrawn) children aged 11-14, a party of 12 playing violins, guitars, melodions, recorders and one cello, certainly made a "merry sound

Introduced by the Rev. Andrew, they were vigorously

conducted by Sister Casimir. The highest commendation one can make about this concert is that one really wouldn't have known that the majority of the performers were suffering from any disability.

Miss Juliette Alvin's tireless energy in the cause is clearly bearing fruit.

O.R.B.

# Snap Up The Half-Crowns for Spastics — and Get a Free Film for Yourself

ALMOST EVERYBODY takes holiday snaps, and it can become quite expensive, but now everyone can help spastics and at the same time help themselves to a free film, without paying a halfpenny more than they would normally pay for developing and

HOW THE SCHEME WORKS

1. Special envelopes in containers of 50 are being placed in shops throughout the country and are also available from the Appeals Division, at 12 Park Crescent, London, W.1.

2. When you have completed your present colour or black and white film, put it into one of these special envelopes together with a postal order or cheque for the cost of developing and printing and post it to the address which is printed on the envelope.

3. In a few days time you will receive your tip-top quality prints and negatives together with A NEW KODAK FILM either colour or black and white of the size you sent.

4. You will also receive another envelope in which to post the next exposed film, and so

The first time you take advantage of this service, The Spastics Society will receive 2/6d. for a colour film, 1/3d. for a black and white, and for every subsequent film 1/-d. If you have a shop other than a chemist's or photographic dealer, you can be supplied on request to the Society with an attractive container holding 50 envelopes to place on the counter for the convenience of your customers. If not, you can help spastics by distributing envelopes to your friends or work colleagues.

#### NOTE THESE POINTS

1. Only use the envelopes with the Spastics Society's name printed on the corner.

The standard cost of developing and printing is shown on the back of the envelope. 3. Both colour films and black and white films for prints can be developed and printed, but

this does NOT apply to colour transparencies. 4. You will be credited with the cost of any snaps that cannot be printed.

Please send off the coupon below and you will be prepared for your holiday snaps.

TO

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, APPEALS, THE SPASTICS SOCIETY, 12 Park Crescent,

Please send friends and myself in which to post snapshot films for developing and printing

OR (Cross out one of these requests) Please send me a free container with 150 special envelopes to put on my shop counter.

ADDRESS .....

London, W.1. special envelopes for my

NAME (Block Letters)

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

.......... a son stepe marke a m Sprital Scaure.

S.O.S. Star Show A STRONG enthusiastic team, volume of goods were sold as drawn from Headquarters and

Homework Volunteers at

the new Fitzroy Centre, voluntarily turned out in support of the show. From 10.30 a.m. the kiosk was open for the colourful display and sale of work produced by spastics. Immediately preceding both performances and during the intervals, attractive members of staff moved amongst the audience selling goods from portable trays; we didn't lose one of our young ladies!

It was a long hard day, but the end results were most encouraging. Three times the

against last year's figures, enabling the Homework Section to pass a donation to the S.O.S.

Yes, the team were on the ball!—Miss Sally Dale, Miss Meg Davies, Mrs. Marion Dean, Miss Pauline Divito, Miss Helen Heward, Miss Diane Mercer, Miss Deborah Royston-Jones, Miss Tina Peel-Yates, Miss Gloria Wilcox, and Mr. John Reardon, and of course, Miss E. Nevitt, Deputy Homework Manager, and the Homework Manager, Mr. Arthur Dobson, stood by cracking the whip!

# C.P. PROBLEMS IN EAST AFRICA

Elizabeth Anderson and Beryl Bremner (Continued from April issue)

WHILE LACK OF FINANCE and paucity of facilities are outstanding difficulties and the pressure of numbers will soon be another, certain problems do prevent the existing centres from operating as effectively as they might.

One problem is that many C.P. children never reach the clinics. Not only is the system of referrals inadequate, but traditional medicine is often preferred especially during pregnancs and childbirth, but also for certain diseases believed to result from the breaking of a taboo or the omission of some ceremony.

Often the parents of the cerebral-palsied child are not free to make a decision regarding treatment, but must accept communal advice particularly that of the extended family and the influential grandmother. Previous contacts with the medical services may have been discouraging.

The dispensary or village clinic is probably run by an over-worked medical assistant; after a long period of waiting and a perfunctory examination, cerebral palsy may be confused with polio and the child referred to a polio clinic, o. possibly not referred any-

Many of those reaching the C.P. Clinic fail to re-attend. Some expect quick results and in their absence see no purpose in returning. Others wish to return, but fail because of the distance of their homes from the clinic, lack of transport, the long walk (perhaps impossible during the rains) carrying the child to the bus, inability to pay fares, or, particularly if the child needs intensive treatment, because there is no inexpensive accommodation for them in the city.

#### Home Duties

Home duties preoccupy most mothers; the Muganda woman has a tight daily schedule, working from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. cultivating the food-crops, cooking and looking after several children and cannot easily leave her family to visit a clinic. Often the C.P. child is looked after devotedly until a new baby arrives, when he is neglected and may die.

In certain areas it is customary after weaning to send the child to live with another

relative, usually an aunt or grandmother who may lack interest in taking him for treatment or live too far away.

While regular at-

tendance is sometimes possible, certain seasonal activities make greater demands on the mother's time and she may stop attening for weeks or months. Problems of communication with village families and poor transport make the follow-up of patients extremely difficult. Children who attend regularly gen-

erally come from the better-educated families, although a problem here is that both parents may go out to work, the child being left with an ayah. However, the educational level of the parent seems to make little difference to her ability and willingness to carry out home treatment.



Peter, a badly handicapped but cheerful little boy, enjoys wheeling himself along in his chair.

The authors wish to express their sincere thanks to Mrs. V. Spencer. Physiotherapist - in - Charge at Bohra, Nairobi, and to Miss M. Bridgewater, Headmistress at the Coast School, Mombasa, for their help.



ATTENTIVE LISTENERS TO THE DIRECTOR—at the Wessex Regional Conference at Salisbury. (Left to right): Mrs. Joyce Smith, Chairman of the Salisbury and District S.A., Miss Charmian Mould, Wessex Regional Officer, the Countess of Pembroke, Chairman of the Conference, Ald. Mrs. Dorothy Brown, Mayor of Salisbury and Mrs. Eileen Rattue, the Mayoress.

(Photo: Austin Underwood).

# PRINCESS MARINA SENDS GOOD WISHES TO WESSEX CONFERENCE

## **Emphasis on Subnormality** REPORT by ANNE PLUMMER

THIS YEAR'S WESSEX REGIONAL CONFERENCE, held at Salisbury College of Further Education, on 6th April, opened with a personal goodwill message from Princes Marina. The message was relayed by the Countess of Pembroke, C.V.O., who acted as a very able Chairman of the proceedings.

Lady Pembroke's speech of welcome was followed by a brief address from the Mayor of Salisbury. Then the Annual Report was given by Mr. E. G. Williment, Chairman of Wessex Regional Advisory Committee. After paying tribute to the work of the Regional Officer, Miss Charmian Mould, and all who had helped organise the conference, he spoke of the proposed North Hampshire Work Centre at Basingstoke.

It was hoped to collect

£36,000 in twelve months for the Work Centre. Mr. Willi-ment mentioned that a Hampshire County Spastics Week would be held in September, 1968.

He added that Salisbury and District Spastics Society, the youngest group in the Region,

The West Sussex Spastics Group are exhibiting at the Spring Holiday Fete, Lynchmere, West Sussex, on Monday, June 3, 1968 at 2.30—6.30 p.m.

#### FUND RAISING

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had two projects in view.

The first was an extension to the spastics' wing at Odstock Hospital which would provide accommodation for twenty-five more children. The other project was a garden centre at Thorngrove which the Salisbury group had agreed to help with in order to relieve the pressure on The Spastics Society.

#### Subnormality

Once Regional business had been completed, the rest of the conference was mainly devoted to the problems of sub-normality. Mr. James Loring, the Director, pointed out the distinction between educationally sub-normal and severely sub-normal. He said that most Local Authorities made reasonable provision for the former type of child but facilities for the severely sub-normal were very poor in some areas.

Mr. Loring said that the term "severely sub-normal" was in itself ugly and dismissive.

It was as if a group of people in the community had been put in a special "untouchable" caste. Wessex was quite good, on the whole, but many subnormality hospitals in other parts of the country were a violation of basic human rights. Rather than send their child to one of these places, parents would struggle on under an almost intolerable burden. Their predicament was exacerbated by the worry of what would happen when they died. Any solution to the problem must begin with community

Mr. Loring finished his talk by showing some slides which conveyed, he thought, the kind of atmosphere which the Society tried to create in its Schools and Centres. They showed children at Hawksworth Hall and Meldreth playing, eating, receiving therapy and being put to bed. Other slides showed Daresbury Hall residents-the same type of spastics grown older.

# Billiards and Snooker

Fillongley Wkmns., Fillongley, near Coventry. Hunstanton Cons., Hunstanton, Norfolk. J. Gardner & J. Spencer. Crowle Legion Club, Crowle, Scunthorpe, Lincs.

Exhibitions

2nd Egham Const. Club, High St., Egham, Surrey.

J. Gardner & R. Reardon. Michael Davitt Club, Hubert St., Bradford.

North End Social, Askern Rd., Bentley, Doncaster.

J. Rea & J. Spencer. Comrades Great War Club, 15 Regent St., Heckmondwike, Yorks. J. Rea.

9th Ex-Service Club, Siddal Lane, Siddal, Halifax.

J. Rea & J. Spencer. 10th Wilsdon Cons., Wellington St., Wilsden, Bradford.

J. Rea & K. Kennerley. Abertysswg Wkmns., Abertysswg, Rhymney, Mon., Wales. J. Rea. 21st Blackhall Wkmns., Blackhall Colliery, Hartlepool, Co. Durham.

22nd New Mill Wkmns., New Mill, Huddersfield, Yorks. J. Gardner & J. Rea. 23rd St. Bedes Club, Brownley, St. Clayton le Woods, Lancs. J. Gardner & J. Rea.

24th Haydock Cons., Haydock, St. Helens, Lancs.
28th Imperial Club, Cliff St., Mexborough, Yorks.
30th Reform Club, Millgate, Bentley, Doncaster.
31st Glaxo Laboratories Club, Barnard Castle, Co. Durham.
J. Rea.

The Director was followed by Dr. Grace Woods, who spoke of her experience with Cerebral Palsied children and adults in two hospitals for the subnormal. Her talk was also illustrated by slides of patients.

She warned against labelling children as sub-normal at too early an age. Some children, she said, who had been put into sub-normality hospitals for social reasons when very young had afterwards turned out to be educable. However, once they had been admitted it was very difficult to get them out.

#### Watch Progress

Dr. Woods said that it had taken her two years to get one particular child de-certified. She thought that Local Authorities should keep an eye on the progress of children they had placed in sub-normality hospitals in case they showed signs of improvement.

Dr. Woods said that some of the children in these hospitals were complete "Joe Eggs" who needed total nursing care. Others could be taught to walk and talk and should be encouraged to do so if they showed the least signs of ability.

Showing a slide of a young rug-maker, Dr. Woods made the interesting point that when these patients reached 16 or 17, even those with a mental age of two wanted to "work" rather than just play.

#### Its a Business

Then Mr. Paul MacConnell, Assistant Director, Appeals, spoke on fund raising, which he said should be treated as a business in the same way as any profit-making organisation. The aim of the Society was to make all its groups self-supporting in time. It now had three appeals organisers who travelled round, working in conjunction with Regional Officers and advising groups on fund-raising.

Mr. MacConnell also thought it was a good idea for groups to have a local spastic to speak at meetings for them. This could be a great help in any publicity campaign.

The speeches ended with a talk by Mr. V. C. Reid, Chairman of Thurrock and District Spastics Society, who is the father of a severely sub-normal spastic aged seven. His story forcibly brought home the despair felt by the parents of such children. It made all the more impact because of the unemotional way in which it was told.

"The future for Jonathan is hopeless," said Mr. Reid, "All we can ask ourselves is how long can we go on?"

While the main business of the conference was taking place, an Advisory Panel was sitting in another room. This was a repeat of a successful venture at the Wessex Conference last year.

DON'T FORGET . .

Saturday, May 25th — The Spastics Society's SPRING CONFERENCE and A.G.M. at The Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool Street Station.

Saturday, May 11th - The Midland Region A.G.M. and CONFERENCE at the Meadway Works, Garretts

### sticky problem

Lane, Birmingham.

A BUCKINGHAMSHIRE supermarket is backing a campaign to collect pink stamps towards a power-driven wheelchair for a spastic child. The response from customers was overwhelming, but staff had no time to stick the stamps into books. Finally, a Mrs. Allen came to the rescue and has stuck in over 10,000 stamps. The supermarket is in Spittal Square,

# Wessex (Cont'd) NEW GROUP FOR **ESSEX**

# **Basildon Steering Committee Formed**

AT A WELL ATTENDED PUBLIC MEETING held in St. Martin's Hall, Basildon on Wednesday, March 20th, enough interest was aroused to enable a new local group to be formed there.

The meeting, at which The Spastics Society's film "One of the Family" was shown, was presided over by the Chairman of the Council (Councillor A. Baron Burn, J.P.), who said, that as Basildon is a new town and lacks some of the traditional community spirit enjoyed by old established townships, voluntary organisations can do much to enhance this community spirit by bringing people together to share mutual

problems, particularly those dealing with handicapped persons.

He therefore welcomed the suggestion to establish a Spastics Group in Basildon.

The East Anglia Regional Officer, Mr. H. G. Knight, told the audience that as only twenty spastics were known to The Spastics Society in the area, and Basildon had a population of over 100,000, it was obvious that the establishment of a local group would do much not only to provide services supplementary and complementary to those already existing but through local publicity would form a contact point for spastics and their parents not already known to The Spastics

## **EMPLOYMENT** NEWS

CAROLE BOWLES from Nottingham has completed a course at Sherrards and is working as a packer for a local

SANDRA BOYCE from Worsley who trained at the Chester Office Training Centre is now working at Remploy in Bolton. KAREN SANDRA BROWN from Hereford has a new job and is working for a local greengrocer.

JEAN BUNDY from Bletchley who trained at the Chester Office Training Centre is now working on the clerical staff of the Tetley Tea Company.
ALAN CONWAY from Upper

Clapton has changed his job and is now working for Messrs. Harker Stagg Ltd.
DALLAS COTTON from Man-

chester has been working for some time in a local departmental store.
MARGARET WALKER from

Halifax who recently completed a course of Further Education at Dene Park is now employed as a wire worker by Messrs. Mallinson & Sons Ltd.

#### Steering Committee

A Steering Committee has now been formed and the next few months will be spent on the mundane initial administrative necessities before the group can become fully opera-

This new group is the seventh to be formed in Essex and has already agreed to take an active part in the "Essex Spastics Week"—June 23rd • June 29th.

Co-ordination of fund raising and general activities in Essex is arranged by the "Essex District Committee", which has representatives of all seven groups, five National Centres (and "Friends of Centres") and the '62 Club-Southend-on-Sea.

The co-operation enjoyed by these groups, Centres, etc., in a comparatively small area is of course absolutely essential and evidence of the broad outlook taken by the Essex Groups.

At the last meeting of the Basildon Group Steering Committee a cheque for £10 was presented from the Chelmsford group "to start them on their way with some petty cash"— themselves less than two years

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# SCREAMS, YELLS

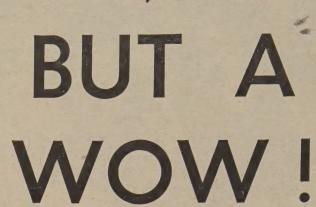
THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL Record Star Show took place on Sunday, 24th March, at the Empire Pool, Wembley. I was lucky enough to attend the afternoon performance of this great show.

Organiser David Jacobs started the ball rolling by introducing The Foundations, who pounded their way through three numbers which included "Baby, Now That I've Found You" and "Back On My Feet Again." Next, Pete Brady introduced the Australian group The Easybeats, who gave us "Friday On My Mind" and "Hello, How Are You?"

#### Pale Blue shirt

The screams started when The Flower Pot Men sang the beautiful "Let's Go To San Francisco." Simon Dupree and the Big Sound were introduced by Kenny Everett and his friend Chris. Simon wore a pale blue shirt and orange waistcoat—which stood out well against the bright red and blue stage setting and sang the world-wide

Glamour at the Record Star
Show was provided by the
Breakaways (left), who backed
Tony Blackburn. The Easybeats
(below left) pictured as they
were swirging through "Friday
on my Mind."



hit "Kites" and his follow-up "For Whom The Bell Tolls."

Don Moss had the job of introducing fellow DJ Tony Blackburn, who sang his latest release "She's My Girl." Kenny Ball and his Jazzmen closed the first half of the show.

#### Pleasant addition

After the interval Dave Cash announced a pleasant addition to the line-up—Geno Washington and the Ram Jam Band. Then Simon Dee called for his "brother," and I thought the screams would never end! Dave Dee, Dozy, Beaky, Mick and Tich are certainly popular!

Pete Murray then introduced the best dressed group there, the Amen Corner, whose presentation included their big hit "Bend Me, Shake Me." Alan Freeman appeared to introduce Chris Farlowe and the Thunderbirds. Chris was followed by the Spencer Davis Group.



P. J. Proby took over as Top of the Bill as Cliff Richard was ill—(top). The big men of the moment in our lower picture were D.J. Peta Murray and Leslie Crowther, Chairman of the Stars Organisation for Spastics.

# Kursaal venue for Annual Dance

Some 200 guests attended Southend and District Spastic Society's annual dance at the Kursaal recently. M.C. was Mr. Jack Barlow and dancing was to Stanley Strutt and his orchestra. (Photo: Southend Standard)



David Jacobs, the Vice-President of the Stars Organisation for Spastics, organised the Record Star Show.



# MEDIEVAL

Nearly £1,800 was raised at a Medieval Fair held at Arundel Castle recently, in aid of Worthing, Littlehampton and District Spastics Society. One of the striking features (left) was the host party of schoolgirls dressed in costume. The Mayor of Worthing Cllr. B. P. Ross (below) tried his hand at the roll-a-coin stall.

(Photo: Worthing Gazette)



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